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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

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| Application Serial Number | 09/977,971 |
| Filing Date | October 17, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Forde |
| Group Art Unit | 3732 |
| Examiner Name | V. Bui |
| Attorney Docket No. | NMT-002 |
| Confirmation No. | 4305 |
| Issue Date | Not applicable |

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Check Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment and Response (10 pgs.) <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Official Draftsperson including Drawings [Total Sheets ____] <input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Sequence Listing submission <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy/CD <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts of Application <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (Revocation of Prior Powers) <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney for Utility or Design Patent Application <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> CD(s) for large table or computer program <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment After Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Certificate of Correction <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Correction (in duplicate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief (in triplicate) <input type="checkbox"/> Status Inquiry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of First Class Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of Limited Recognition (1 pg.) |
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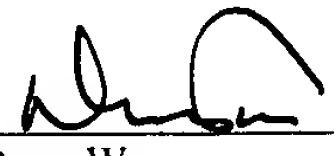
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SIGNATURE BLOCK

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Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT
Atty. Docket No. NMT-002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Forde *et al.* CONFIRMATION NO.: 4305
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/977,971 ART UNIT: 3731
FILING DATE: October 17, 2001 EXAMINER: V. Bui
TITLE: Over-the-Wire Interlock Attachment/Detachment Mechanism

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action (the "Office Action") for the above-identified patent application, mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 1, 2004. Applicants believe that no extension of time is required for the submission of this paper. Should Applicants be in error, and additional time for responding to this Office Action is required, please consider this paper as a conditional petition for an extension of time and conditional authorization to charge fees for this submission to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.